

## Support the HOPWA Program

*Sign the letter to the Appropriations Committee*

**Deadline COB March 29**

***Last year's signers (87):*** Jerrold Nadler, Joe Crowley, Pramila Jayapal, Alma S. Adams, PhD., Nanette Diaz Barragán, Joyce Beatty, Donald S. Beyer Jr., Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Robert A. Brady, Anthony G. Brown, G.K. Butterfield, Salud O. Carbajal, André Carson, Kathy Castor, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Yvette D. Clarke, Steve Cohen, Gerald E. Connolly, Joe Courtney, Elijah E. Cummings, Danny K. Davis, Diana DeGette, John K. Delaney, Rosa L. DeLauro, Mark DeSaulnier, Ted Deutch, Keith Ellison, Eliot L. Engel, Adriano Espaillat, Elizabeth H. Esty, Marcia L. Fudge, Tulsi Gabbard, Ruben Gallego, Al Green, Raúl M. Grijalva, Alcee L. Hastings, Denny Heck, Hakeem Jeffries, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Robin L. Kelly, Ro Khanna, John B. Larson, Brenda L. Lawrence, Al Lawson, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, John Lewis, Zoe Lofgren, Ben Ray Luján, Stephen F. Lynch, Carolyn B. Maloney, A. Donald McEachin, James P. McGovern, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Jimmy Panetta, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Chellie Pingree, Jared Polis, Scott H. Peters, Jamie Raskin, Kathleen M. Rice, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Bobby L. Rush, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Linda T. Sánchez, Jan Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, David Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Terri A. Sewell, Carol Shea-Porter, Albio Sires, Louise M. Slaughter, Adam Smith, Darren Soto, Mark Takano, Marc Veasey, Filemon Vela, Nydia M. Velázquez, Tim Walz, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Peter Welch, Frederica S. Wilson

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to support the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program in the FY 2020 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. Along with the HIV/AIDS community, including the National AIDS Housing Coalition, we ask for a funding level of \$410 million, a \$17 million increase over FY19 funding level, to ensure that as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enacts the updated HOPWA formula, no jurisdiction loses funding or leaves current HOPWA residents without supportive housing.

This year, we are requesting a funding increase of \$17 million to stop funding cuts to the states and cities impacted by the proposed HOPWA formula change. In 2015, Congress updated the formula to reflect how HIV/AIDS has changed over the last three decades. The new formula shifts more funding to the areas with highest unmet needs, but because the pool of money for HOPWA grants is so small, many jurisdictions will lose funding this year. The additional \$17 million will ensure that no jurisdiction loses funding and no one loses their supportive housing.

If you have any questions, or you would like to sign on to the letter, please contact Melissa Connolly in Rep. Nadler's office at [melissa.connolly@mail.house.gov](mailto:melissa.connolly@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Rep. Jerrold Nadler

Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Rep. Terri A. Sewell

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

The Honorable David Price  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

We write to request that the Committee once again support the Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program in the FY2020 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill. Along with the HIV/AIDS Community, including the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC), we ask for a funding level of at least \$410 million, a \$17 million increase above the FY2019 funding level. Providing at least \$410 million in FY2020 will ensure that, as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) continues to implement the updated HOPWA formula, no jurisdiction loses funding or leaves current HOPWA residents without access to supportive housing. We urge you to fund this highly effective, bipartisan program.

For 27 years, HOPWA has provided a national safety net for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands all receive competitive and formula grants to design and deliver community-based, cost-effective housing and supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Stable housing, like the housing provided through the HOPWA program leads to better health outcomes for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

In 2015, Congress recognized that the original HOPWA formula no longer reflected the current HIV epidemic and passed a new formula to award grants. The disease had shifted from a largely urban epidemic to a silent rural epidemic, and the funding needed to follow where the disease was growing. However, the new formula left many jurisdictions poised to lose significant resources.

Over the last two fiscal years, the Appropriations Committee has provided adequate funding to hold every jurisdiction harmless and ensure no one loses benefits. Funding HOPWA with at least \$410 million this year will continue that pattern. The additional \$17 million in funding is necessary to ensure no jurisdiction loses funding under the new formula and no families living with HIV/AIDS lose their home.

HOPWA remains chronically underfunded, and even this slight increase will have very little impact on the long waitlist of patients waiting to access HOPWA housing. The Trump Administration has pledged to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030, and supportive housing must be a critical component of that plan. Housing has more of an impact on health outcomes for those living with HIV/AIDS than nearly any other factor, including demographics, drug and alcohol use, mental health or access to social services. Access to housing is directly linked to decreased viral load, lack of co-infection with Hepatitis-C or

Tuberculosis, and reduced mortality. In fact, according to NAHC, homeless individuals who access stable housing experience an 80 percent reduction in mortality from AIDS and a 54 percent reduction in hospitalizations.

While we look forward to working towards full funding of this efficient, effective program, providing at least \$410 million in FY2020 is imperative to keep these families in their homes and keep the program functioning as Congress intended.

Sincerely,

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Rep. Jerrold Nadler

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Rep. Pramila Jayapal

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Rep. Terri A. Sewell

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Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez